

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions
and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) Apparatus comprising:

a first suspension member;

a second suspension member having a through hole
with a first tapered surface defining a first end of said
through hole and a second tapered surface defining a second
end of said through hole, said first and second tapered
surfaces converging toward a center of said second suspension
member, a cylindrical surface interposed between said first
and second tapered surfaces and defining a central portion of
said through hole;

a socket connected with said first suspension
member;

a one-piece stud having a first end portion and a
second end portion;

said socket supporting said first end portion of
said stud in said socket for pivotal movement relative to said
socket;

said second end portion of said stud projecting from
said socket and completely through said through hole, said
second end portion of said stud having a third tapered outer
surface in engagement with said first tapered surface of said
second suspension member; and

a fastener ~~on~~ secured to said second end portion of said stud, said fastener having a fourth tapered outer surface in engagement with said second tapered surface of said second suspension member, said second end portion of said stud extending completely through said fastener and said fastener causing said first and third tapered surfaces to be pressed together and causing said second and fourth tapered surfaces to be pressed together to secure said second suspension member relative to said second end portion of said stud;

 said socket and said stud supporting said first suspension member for movement relative to said second suspension member.

Claim 2 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said stud has a longitudinal central axis on which said third tapered outer surface of said stud is centered, said third tapered outer surface of said stud extending at a first angle relative to said axis, said first and second tapered surfaces of said second suspension member also extending at said first angle relative to said axis.

Claim 3 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 2 wherein said fourth tapered surface ~~on~~ said fastener also extends at said first angle relative to said axis when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud.

Claim 4 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in
claim 2 wherein said third tapered surface ~~on~~ ~~said stud~~
extends at a 45 degree angle to said axis.

Claim 5 (original) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1
wherein said fastener is a nut and said second end portion of
said stud has a threaded end portion for receiving said nut.

Claim 6 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in
claim 1 wherein said second end portion of said stud has a
cylindrical portion extending from said third tapered surface
~~of~~ ~~said stud~~ in a direction away from said first end portion
of said stud, said cylindrical portion having a smaller
diameter than the smallest diameter of said third tapered
surface ~~of~~ ~~said stud~~, said cylindrical portion of said second
end portion of said stud being spaced away from and extending
parallel to said cylindrical surface of said second suspension
~~member when said third tapered surface is in abutting~~
engagement with said first tapered surface.

Claim 7 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in
claim 1 wherein said stud has a longitudinal central axis on
which said third tapered outer surface ~~of~~ ~~said stud~~ is
centered, said third tapered outer surface ~~of~~ ~~said stud~~
extending at a first angle relative to said axis, said first
and second tapered surfaces ~~of~~ ~~said second suspension member~~
also extending at said first angle relative to said axis, said
fourth tapered surface ~~on~~ ~~said fastener~~ also extending at said

first angle to said axis when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud, said fastener being a nut and said second end portion of said stud having a threaded end portion for receiving said nut.

Claim 8 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 8 7 wherein said second end portion of said stud has a cylindrical portion extending from said third tapered surface of said stud in a direction away from said first end portion of said stud, said cylindrical portion having a smaller diameter than the smallest diameter of said third tapered surface of said stud, said cylindrical portion of said second end portion of said stud being spaced away from and extending parallel to said cylindrical surface of said second suspension member when said third tapered surface is in abutting engagement with said first tapered surface.

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Claim 9 (new) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said second end portion of said stud including a terminal end having a hexagonal configuration, said terminal end being located on a side of said fastener opposite said first end portion when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud.